

June 5, 2006
Regular Session

Minutes

Members present

Brady Wooten- Chairman
Allen Sneed- Vice- Chairman
Leon Casstevens- Commissioner
Kim Clark Phillips- Commissioner
D.C. Swaim- Commissioner

Others Present

Cecil E. Wood- County Manager
Melinda Vestal-Clerk to the Board

Chairman Wooten called the meeting to order. Commissioner Swaim had the invocation. The Board had the pledge.

Public comments

Alice Singh, Yadkinville, addressed the Board concerning the hours at the shelter. She commented the hours are not convenient for the citizens. She requested to be on the June 19th agenda to present a proposal for new hours.

Minutes

***Commissioner Sneed made the motion to approve the minutes with said changes. Commissioner Casstevens seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

Economic Development-update/report

Bobby Todd, Director of Economic Development, congratulated the Forbush High School Baseball team on placing 2nd in the State. Mr. Todd reported that the unemployment rate is 3.4% for Yadkin County. He reported on several projects/events happening in the county.

The Board discussed the ATV Event and the Grape Festival.

Mr. Todd updated the Board on BEPCO's progress.

Water/Sewer-funding sources /Ron Niland

Ron Niland, All American Associates, reported to the Board the various activities going on in Jonesville and the potential effect of alcohol sales in the county. He informed the Board that the occupancy tax in Jonesville had increased from 1% to 3%. He discussed travel and tourism for the county. Mr. Niland stated the Town of Jonesville is building a new town hall/visitors center on land donated by a citizen. He stated that Yadkin County is a struggling rural county and he does not think that the county can self-support a water system. He reviewed the priorities for the county. He commented that the more the county and towns work together, the better chances of getting funds. He encouraged the Board to talk with their local and state representatives regarding the projects in Yadkin County.

The Board discussed the various water and sewer projects.

Mr. Niland recommended concentrating on schools and public health issues; easy money for this type of project. He suggested checking on funds from the Golden Leaf Foundation, Rural Development and Infrastructure Planning grants.

The Board discussed the old prison and inquired if there were any funds available that could assist with this project.

Mr. Niland thought the county could use the same dollars that are used for transports and housing on the prison project. He also stated the County needs to get the prison property in their hands.

Mr. Niland commended Ray Maneri on his grant writing skills.

Chairman Wooten asked if there were any funds available for courthouse renovations?

Mr. Niland stated he would check. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.

Courthouse-renovations

Mr. Wood presented the cost estimates for the courthouse. He stated the Board needs to decide which side to do the bullpens and proceed to get bids.

The Board discussed the costs.

Commissioner Sneed suggested the Board purchase the plans from the architect and then get the bids ourselves.

***Commissioner Swaim made the motion to accept the lower estimate to remodel the current bullpens, also to get the detailed drawings and bring them back before the Board and then proceed with bids. Chairman Wooten seconded. The Board voted 2-3. Commissioners Phillips, Sneed and Casstevens opposed.**

***Commissioner Phillips made a motion to review both sides for the holding cells. Motion died due to lack of second.**

***Commissioner Sneed made the motion to do the existing bullpen side per the specs, purchase the drawings and put out to local contractors for bid. Commissioner Casstevens seconded. The Board voted 3-2. Commissioners Phillips and Swaim opposed.**

Register of Deeds-budget amendment

The Board tabled this issue.

Chairman Wooten called for a break.

Solid Waste-resolution

YADKIN COUNTY RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE YADKIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLAN UPDATE

WHEREAS. Better planning for solid waste will help protect public health and the environment, provide for an improved solid waste management system, and better utilize our natural resources. Control the cost of the solid waste management; and,

WHEREAS, NC General Statute 130A-309.09A(b) requires each unit of government, to develop a 10-year comprehensive solid waste management plan; and,

WHEREAS, Yadkin County was adequately represented on the Yadkin County Planning Advisory committee and has been actively in the planning process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners hereby approve the Yadkin County Comprehensive solid waste management plan update.

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners during regular session on this 5th day of June 2006.

s/Brady Wooten, Chairman
Yadkin County Commissioners

s/Melinda Vestal
Clerk to the Board

***Commissioner Sneed made the motion to adopt the resolution for the Solid Waste Plan. Chairman Wooten seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

Water-Hwy 601

***Commissioner Sneed made the motion to approve the change order for the installation of a modified electrical panel to provide power for the heaters in the RPZ backflow preventor. Commissioner Casstevens seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

Budget-2006/2007

Mr. Wood reviewed the 2006/2007 budget. He informed the Board there was not a tax increase included in the budget, but \$1.1 million of the fund balance has been used. The budget includes a 2% COLA for employees and an increase in insurance. Solid Waste has a deficit of \$495,000; not enough revenues being generated to cover the expenses. This budget reflects a \$265,000 increase over last year's. There are more needs than funds available. Mr. Wood informed the Board that \$4-\$5 million has been cut from the budget. The schools are getting the same amount as last year. Mr. Wood stated that the county would have to implement a 4 cent tax increase over the next few years to cover increasing costs. The county is struggling financially and using the fund balance is not the way to do business. Mr.

Wood informed the Board that a public hearing would have to be held before adopting the budget.

Mr. Wood thanked the employees and department heads for doing a good job with the available funds.

Chairman Wooten thanked Mr. Wood and county personnel for their hard work on the budget.

The Board set a budget workshop for June 8th at 6:30 p.m. They directed to notify the departments and set appointments for those wanting to talk to the Board.

Commissioner comments

Commissioner Swaim questioned a road petition.

Commissioner Phillips informed the Board of a request from the Veteran Service Officer regarding the shipment of supplies to Iraq. He asked if the County would pay the shipment of 19 boxes to Iraq; a total of \$306.35.

***Commissioner Phillips made the motion to pay shipping charges on 19 boxes of supplies donated by Home Depot to our troops in Iraq. Commissioner Sneed seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

The Board directed Mr. Wood to send a thank you note to Home Depot.

Commissioner Phillips discussed the recent rabies case involving a domestic animal. She emphasized to the public not to pick up stray animals.

Chairman Wooten stated the cat was picked up in Hamptonville and there was another case involving a raccoon in the same area. He encouraged pet owners to be responsible; get their animals vaccinated.

Commissioner Phillips discussed the jail and the possibility of the county obtaining the old prison property.

Commissioner Phillips questioned if non-profit organizations submitted audits to the county?

Mr. Wood stated no, not all agencies.

Commissioner Phillips informed the Board that the Medicaid issue was still alive in the House. She suggested calling our representatives.

Commissioner Sneed commented on the animal shelter lawsuit. He informed the Board that a representative from Raleigh inspected the shelter, unannounced, and found nothing wrong.

Commissioner Casstevens spoke of the letter received from NCACC regarding Medicaid.

Commissioner Casstevens reminded the Board of the retirement party for Woodie and Linda Gough, June 16th at the county park

Chairman Wooten asked the Board to look at the chart, supplied by Ms. Vestal, regarding the tax values for this year and the past several years.

Chairman Wooten discussed the holding cells and asked if the electronic lock door was a requirement, if not can it be taken out of the plan to save money.

Mr. Wood stated the doors could be put down as an alternate safety feature.

Mr. Wood discussed the BFI contract.

Chairman Wooten directed Mr. Wood to find out the cost to get out of the contract with BFI.

Chairman Wooten discussed with the Board safety issues with the interchanges at Hwy 21/Hwy 421. He suggested contacting DOT to do a safety study.

Chairman Wooten asked if the fire departments' budgets were included in the budget packets?

Mr. Wood stated no, but they are available in his office.

Chairman Wooten stated he would like to continue pursuing the Hwy 21/Asbury Church Road interchange.

Chairman Wooten inquired about sewer lines from Hwy 21 to Yadkinville.

***Chairman Wooten made the motion for Mr. Wood to work with Arcadis on proceeding with the final engineering design for I-77/Hwy 421 and to apply for grants, loans and any other funding source and to prepare for bids. Commissioner Phillips seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

The Board discussed sewer lines for I-77/Hwy 421 interchange.

Commissioner Phillips congratulated the seniors at Forbush and Starmount High Schools.

Chairman Wooten shared a thank you card from Karen Wagoner thanking the Board for the flowers that were sent in memory of her mother.

Manager comments

Mr. Wood informed the Board of a rabies case involving a domestic animal.

Mr. Wood discussed the proposed waterline to Starmount High School and adding it to the NC Revolving loan application.

Mr. Wood informed the Board of the closing of the group home. He suggested two uses for the home; a battered women's shelter or an operation similar to the one now. There have been two agencies interested in leasing the home, both are non-profit but have the funding to operate the home. Domestic Violence currently has no funding, but could possibly obtain some at a later date.

Chairman Wooten suggested talking with both agencies which have current funding.

Commissioner Casstevens suggested talking to Surry County about their battered women's shelter.

Adjournment

***Commissioner Sneed made the motion to recess until June 8th at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Casstevens seconded. The Board voted 5-0.**

Melinda Vestal, Clerk to the Board